

MEDIA RELEASE

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

The historic Institute Building on the corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace is currently encased in scaffolding, which is expected to remain in place until March 2015.

Restorative work is being undertaken to remediate the damage caused by moisture affecting the footings, and has been noticeable on the lower walls for some time. Peeling paintwork and crumbling lower levels of the walls, has seen the building reach a sad and sorry state.

The Director, Alan Smith said that “I am very pleased that earlier this year we were advised that funding was available for work to commence at the end of 2014, and to be completed by March 2015”. This restorative work, will prevent any further long-term damage to the exterior of the much-loved Institute Building.

“The work includes preventative measures, including a strip drain to divert moisture away from the sensitive walls, restoring the render, and importantly a repaint of the entire building. The painting component of the project is not only critical to the overall safeguarding of the building, but it will bring it back to its 1908 colour scheme” added Mr Alan Smith.

The first wing of the Institute was opened on 29 January 1861 with a grand social occasion attended by 850 people.

Designed by Edward Hamilton the Colonial Architect, who was also responsible for the 1855 extension to the adjacent Government House and the Adelaide Club it was a focal point of the cultural life of Adelaide with its Italianate features and portico giving presence and elegance to what would become one of the most beautiful cultural boulevards in Australia. The Library's collection of photographs of the ever developing North Terrace remind us that in the in the 1860s, the Institute stood grandly on its corner site with the Adelaide Club and Government House its only neighbours.

The Library's records indicate that in 1875-76 Annual Report for The Institute, the exterior was painted, and again in 1879 another repaint was undertaken. It is recorded that in 1879 the exterior took on a different look with two different colours used.

When the rear wing of the building was completed in 1907, the first unified colour scheme was done in the following year. It is this 1908 scheme that is being replicated.

“We appreciate that the scaffolding and work taking some 4-5 months will be an inconvenience for our visitors to the Institute Building, but I assure everyone that the Library's services, exhibitions and destination for our many users will not be affected. The Institute Building will be restored to its rightful significant presence on the precinct, and any inconvenience will

undoubtedly be outweighed by the benefits. I am so looking forward to seeing it restored to its former glory” said Mr Smith.

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